

## ***Indicator 18: OSHA Enforcement Activities***

### **Significance<sup>i</sup>**

The United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), conducts investigations and inspections at worksites to ensure employee safety and health compliance. Investigations and inspections typically occur at worksites in the event of work-related fatal and non-fatal injuries, hospitalizations, employee complaints and outside referrals. Random inspections are also conducted at high-risk worksites.

Colorado does not have a State-run OSHA; thus, Federal OSHA jurisdiction applies. Federal OSHA covers private sector and Federal employers and employees. It excludes self-employed, family farms or farms with 10 or fewer employees, state and local government workers and workplace hazards regulated by another Federal agency (e.g., the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)).

### **Methods**

The Federal OSHA Denver Area Office provides Colorado OSHA inspection data based on annual reports. Included are enforcement activities in OSHA-covered establishments under OSHA jurisdiction in Colorado. Denominator data were obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW), also known as Covered Employment and Wages (CEW) or the ES-202 program. Data exclude mines, farms and local and state government establishments and employees.

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<sup>i</sup> Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. *Occupational Health Indicators: A Guide for Tracking Occupational Health Conditions and Their Determinants*. Last updated March 2014.

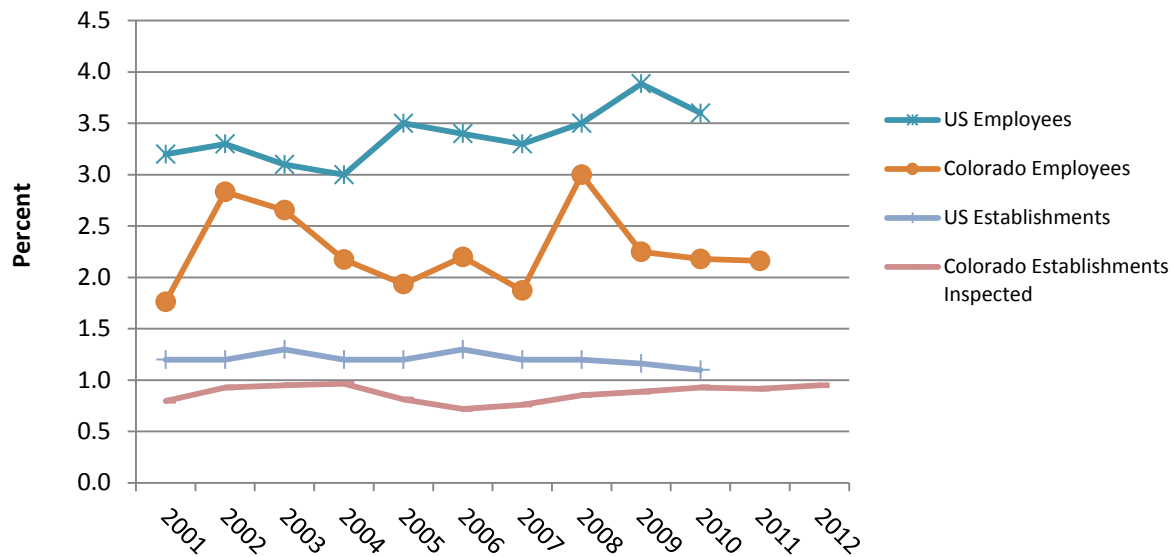
## Results

**Table 18.1 Establishments and employees inspected by OSHA, Colorado 2001-2013**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Establishments under jurisdiction</b>	<b>Establishments Inspected</b>	<b>Percent of establishments inspected</b>	<b>Covered employees eligible for inspection</b>	<b>Employees inspected</b>	<b>Percent of employees inspected</b>
<b>2001</b>	150,319	1,200	0.8	1,904,182	33,561	1.8
<b>2002</b>	153,099	1,420	0.9	1,846,285	52,301	2.8
<b>2003</b>	156,264	1,486	1.0	1,809,416	48,046	2.7
<b>2004</b>	159,346	1,537	1.0	1,831,325	39,811	2.2
<b>2005</b>	165,706	1,345	0.8	1,871,536	36,215	1.9
<b>2006</b>	170,744	1,227	0.7	1,915,522	42,118	2.2
<b>2007</b>	174,663	1,330	0.8	1,956,618	36,647	1.9
<b>2008</b>	174,531	1,492	0.9	1,963,490	58,904	3.0
<b>2009</b>	170,868	1,515	0.9	1,855,128	41,729	2.2
<b>2010</b>	167,356	1,556	0.9	1,830,951	39,901	2.2
<b>2011</b>	165,721	1,518	0.9	1,864,195	40,276	2.2
<b>2012</b>	167,925	1,594	0.9	1,913,811	not available	not available
<b>2013</b>	not available	1,362	not available	not available	not available	not available
<b>Average</b>	164,712	1,429	0.9	1,877,150	42,683	2.3

*Source: OSHA annual reports of total inspections conducted and the number of workers covered by these inspections (numerators); BLS data on Covered Employers and Wages (denominators)*

**Figure 18.1 Percent of establishments and employees whose work areas were inspected by OSHA, Colorado and the United States, 2001-2012\***



Colorado data source: OSHA data on total inspections conducted and the number of workers covered by these inspections (numerator); Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW) (denominator). Includes only employees and establishments under OSHA jurisdiction in Colorado.

US data source: Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, Occupational Health Indicators. Currently, US data is only available through 2010.

\*Colorado employees inspected data not available yet for 2012

## Limitations

- Because OSHA may conduct multiple inspections of the same establishment during the calendar year, the percent of establishments inspected may be slightly overestimated. Additionally, if OSHA conducts multiple inspections of the same worksite during the year, the number of workers covered by OSHA inspections may be over counted.
- Only enforcement activities are measured. These data do not include information about education and compliance assistance activities.
- Employers participating in an OSHA Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) or the Safety and Health Achievement and Recognition Program (SHARP) are exempted from routine inspections. Excluding workers from these programs will reduce the numerator, resulting in an underestimate of the protective function.
- In the BLS QCEW data, individuals holding more than one job are counted multiple times.

## Recommendations and Next Steps:

- Report and track details of enforcement activities by type of establishment or event inspected or enforced.
- Identify methods to demonstrate whether increasing inspection and enforcement activities is effective at preventing work-related injuries and illnesses.